

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the final Office Action mailed January 6, 2006.

Claims 23-32 are pending in the application. Claims 23-28 have been allowed; Claims 29, 30 and 32 were rejected; and Claim 31 was objected to. Upon entry of this paper, Claims 23-29 and 31 will remain pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 163,678 (Merrill) and by US Patent 2,461,068 (Lockwood).

Applicants have cancelled Claim 32.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 29, 30 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over US Patent 163,678 (Merrill) in view of US Patent 4,856,491 (Ferguson, et al.).

As stated hereinabove, Applicants have cancelled Claim 32.

With regards to Claim 30, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection. As previously presented, Claim 30 teaches "...an air manifold positioned below the baffle plate...", the combination of which creates "...a secondary combustion area..." and "...a second air supply system..." directing outside air "...into the secondary combustion area." (Emphasis added.)

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Merrill nor Ferguson, et al. teach a secondary combustion area as in the instant application. Nonetheless, in an effort to expedite this application towards allowance, Applicants have amended Claim 29 to now include limitations from the previously presented Claim 30, and canceled Claim 30.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as applied to Claim 29, is respectfully solicited.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants are grateful for the Examiner's allowance of Claims 23-28.

The Examiner objected to Claim 31 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicants have amended Claim 31 to now depend on amended Claim 29. As discussed hereinabove, Applicants believe amended Claim 29 is now in condition for allowance. In view thereof, Applicants submit Claim 31 is now also in condition for allowance at least for the reason that it depends on an allowable base claim.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to Claim 31 is respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

Upon entry of this paper, Claims 23-29 and 31 will remain pending in the instant patent application. These pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and prompt passage of the application to allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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